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1988/09/00

MISSILE QUESTIONS FOR MR. CLARK'S MURDER BOARD

(E0285)

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Question: Is China continuing to sell ballistic missiles throughout the world? What are we prepared to do about it?

Response: On a number of occasions the United States has expressed its concern to senior PRC leaders over the dangers posed by missile proliferation. The Chinese have responded that with the exception of the sale to Saudi Arabia, China has not sold ballistic missiles to any other country. According to other information available to us, we do not believe that China has sold ballistic missiles to other countries. We have made clear to the Chinese the risks attendant on proliferation of such missiles, especially to regional hotspots such as the

Middle East.

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Question: Do we have any assurances from China that it will not sell missiles to any other country?

Response: Chinese leaders have said that China will take a prudent and responsible attitude regarding weapons sales, including the sale of missiles. They have stated that China's arms sales are evaluated in terms of whether they strengthen legitimate self-defense capabilities and are conducive to the peace, stability, and security of the region concerned. We believe that the Chinese understand our concerns regarding the sale of ballistic missiles and that the constructive dialogue with them thus far provides a basis for optimism concerning future PRC sale of missiles.